SECOND COMING

NEW MUTANTS®

WELLS ⊗ ROBERSON ⊗ MEDINA

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CHAPTER 07

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Previously...

With the members of their race slowly dying out and no new mutants being born, mutantkind was on the brink of extinction. In need of a miracle, the X-Men were elated when one came in the form of Hope—a newborn mutant who held the promise of repopulation. Under attack by those who would see mutantkind extinguished, the X-Men sent the infant into the future with one of their own, Cable, to be raised under his protection and one day return to the present.

Today is that day. Cable and Hope have returned to the present. But the X-Men were not the only ones awaiting their return: Bastion, a super-Sentinel from the future hellbent on exterminating all mutants, has rallied anti-mutant forces to kill Hope and seal mutantkind's fate.

Learning of Cable and Hope's return, Cyclops sends a team of X-Men to locate them and safely escort them to the X-Men's island home, Utopia. While the X-Men ultimately succeed in retrieving Hope, it is not without sacrifice: Protecting Hope from Bastion himself, X-Man Nightcrawler gives his life to save hers. With Hope safely on Utopia, the X-Men take a moment to regroup and bury their dead.

However, Bastion is unfazed by this setback and proceeds with the next stage of his plan...

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X SAN FRANCISCO.

CABLE'S BACK. I'M BRINGING YOU IN.

HE MADE IT, EH? HOW IS HE?

HE'S FINE. HE BROUGHT THE GIRL.

DOMINO, THERE'VE BEEN LOSSES.

WHO?

STRYKER TRAPPED ILLYANA IN LIMBO SOMEHOW... PIXIE'S TAKEN CANNONBALL AND A SMALL TEAM TO BRING HER HOME...

CYCLOPS. WHO DID WE **LOSE** LOSE?

ARIEL AND NIGHTCRAWLER WERE K.I.A.

THEY'RE TARGETING OUR TELEPORTERS.

BASTION WANTS TO KEEP HOPE IN ONE SPOT LONG ENOUGH TO FIND HER. THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU TO BRING THE VANISHER HERE.

IF WE HAVE TO RELOCATE HER QUICKLY HE'S OUR ONLY OPTION FOR--

CRASH!

HOLD ON.

WHERE THE #$%$ IS IT?!

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

MY...MY *WALLET.*

YOU'RE NOT RUNNING OFF TO YOUR PORTUGUESE *BROTHEL,* ARE YOU?

LET ME ANSWER THAT. YOU'RE *NOT.*

YOU'RE GOING TO *UTOPIA* TO SACK UP AND PROTECT THE MUTANT MESSIAH.

MESSIAH?

MESSIAH?!

DO I LOOK LIKE I GO TO CHURCH?!

DON'T--!

AGH!

KRAK

KT

MONSATO, PORTUGAL.

MY NOSE--

I'M GONNA NEED SOME GAUZE, GIRLS!

MY GIRLS...

LOOK AT ME. I WANT YOU TO KNOW WHO KILLED YOU.

I'M STEVEN LANG.

GOODBYE.

MRD

MRD

WAIT--

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

UT

UT

LNGH...

MY GIRLS...

HOW'D BASTION KNOW ABOUT MY GIRLS...

MY INTELLIGENCE WAS CORRECT?

YES, PIERCE. WE'VE TAKEN THEIR FINAL TELEPORTER OFF THE BOARD.

THEN THERE IS NO REASON FOR DELAY. I MUST REVEAL MYSELF.

I MUST CLIP THEIR WINGS.

DO I SENSE HESITATION IN YOUR VOICE?

NO, BASTION. THOUGH THERE WILL BE NO ESCAPE FOR ME, YOU SENSE *ANTICIPATION.*

IF THIS IS TO BE MY FINAL ASSAULT ON THE *MUTANT RACE...*

LET IT END IN FIRE.

SICK BAY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH WARLOCK?

SELF/FRIEND DOUG...I CANNOT STOP RUNNING SHAMESCRIPT.

HE'S IN SHOCK. YEARS AGO HE PROMISED THAT HE'D NEVER ABSORB SENTIENT LIFE. YESTERDAY DOUG ASKED HIM TO BREAK THAT PROMISE...

IT WAS WAR. HODGE AND HIS MEN WOULD HAVE KILLED US ALL IF HE HADN'T. DOUG READ THE SITUATION CORRECTLY.

THAT'S WHAT HE DOES.

STILL, WE GOT HIT HARD. SHAN LOST HER LEG. ILLYANA'S IN LIMBO AND WE'VE LOST SAM TO THE RESCUE MISSION.

I KNOW CABLE HAS A REASON FOR RETURNING NOW... I JUST HOPE HE'S CONSIDERED THE COST.

HA. TAKE IT FROM SOMEONE WHO WORKED "WITH" CABLE IN THE PAST...

...WHATEVER HIS REASON FOR COMING BACK NOW, HOW IT AFFECTS HIS FELLOW X-MEN IS THE FURTHEST THING FROM HIS MIND.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE DOING... STAYING ON, HELPING OUT.

MY ABSENCE WOULD DO HARM, SCOTT. I'M AFRAID THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH FORBIDS ME TO LEAVE.

THOUGH I ADMIT THE *SCIENTIST* IN ME HOPES YOU'VE THOUGHT THROUGH THE COST OF YOUR RECENT CRUSADE.

NONE OF MY DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE LIGHTLY, HANK. THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE... I BELIEVE THAT HOPE IS THE KEY TO PRESERVING THE *MUTANT RACE.*

I KNOW THAT'S WHAT YOU BELIEVE, SCOTT.

AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH FAITH...

THE STRONGER IT GETS THE MORE PEOPLE TEND TO DIE.

3.5 MILES OFF THE COAST OF SAN FRANCISCO.

IT APPEARS TO BE AN ORDINARY OIL RIG. COULD THE INTEL RAMSEY GATHERED HAVE BEEN A RUSE?

IT'S QUITE *UNGUARDED* FOR SOMETHING SUPPOSEDLY SO IMPORTANT.

UNLESS ITS FUNCTION HAS NO DEFENSE...

THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING UP HERE, GUYS. THE MACHINES ARE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME...

COME ON, NOW. WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS. SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT AND EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY...

THAT'S IT...

UH, GUYS...

ZZAOUMMM

#$%&.

MESS HALL.

I'M NOT HUNGRY.

YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT IN 24 HOURS, YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE HUNGRY OR NOT.

YOU EAT, THEN YOU SLEEP.

AND THEN MAYBE I COULD HAVE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME...

THAT IS, ONCE YOU'VE PUT THE GIRL TO BED.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

HOPE.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, MOONSTAR?

MY TEAM TOOK IT ROUGH COVERING FOR YOU OUT THERE, NATHAN. AND WE BOTH KNOW IT'S NOT THE *FIRST TIME.*

THANK YOU. FOR WHAT YOU DID.

I'M NOT LOOKING FOR A THANK-YOU. I JUST WANT TO KNOW, BETWEEN US...

IS YOUR NEW HOBBY WORTH THE TROUBLE?

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING TO ME?

I'M TALKING TO *YOU,* CABLE.

I WANT YOU TO TELL ME YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

GET YOUR FINGER OUT OF HIS FACE.

DIDN'T HE TEACH YOU NOT TO TOUCH SOMEONE UNLESS YOU'RE READY TO--

KRAK

WRONG.

HNNF!!

HOLY--!!

CRASH!

FIGHT!!

I'M NOT THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE PUTTING YOUR HANDS ON--

KSH

YEARRR!

HEY-- HEY!

BREAK IT UP!!

FUD

--URK

LET THEM GO.

UHNF!

SMASH!!

NATHAN, GET OUT OF MY WAY. NOW.

YOU'RE NOT HER FATHER, SCOTT. I'M NOT HER FATHER. SHE MAKES HER OWN WAY NOW.

GRRRRR...

SHE COULD GET HURT, DAMMIT!

YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT SHE COULD. BUT SHE'S NOT GOING TO FIND HER PLACE WITH YOU KEEPING HER IN A BUBBLE. IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE THAT I CAN MAKE IT REAL *EASY* FOR YOU.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

AAAHH...

HNNNNN...

I HAVE ONE JUMP LEFT. PUSH ME ON THIS AND I'LL TAKE HER SO FAR INTO THE FUTURE ***NO ONE*** WILL FIND US.

YOU'RE FORGETTING WHO PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF HOPE IN THE--

KA-BOOM!

FUEL EXPLOSION.

THE BLACKBIRDS.

OH, MY GOD.

MY, OH MY, OH MY...

I DIDN'T MISS THE FUNERAL, DID I?

TAKE HIM APART.

SHNK

LING--

FAP

GAR--

SHNK

AAARGH!

RRRSHHT

...SO THIS IS HOW IT ENDS... SURROUNDED BY SMOKE AND GENETIC FILTH.

I CAN ADMIT WITHOUT SHAME THAT I AM DISAPPOINTED I WON'T BE HERE TO WITNESS YOUR EXTINCTION...

BUT DO NOT THINK I REGRET WHAT I HAVE SACRIFICED HERE TODAY. BASTION COMES FOR YOU--

AND WHEN HE DOES... WHEN YOU SEE THE LIGHT OF HIS FUTURE FIRE RAINING DOWN ON YOUR BENIGHTED "RACE"--

KNOW THAT HIS CLEANSING LIGHT BURNS WITH BUT A FRACTION OF MY PROFOUND HATRED FOR--

SHAZAM!

THEY'VE *TRAPPED* US HERE.

GET THESE FIRES OUT. PREPARE FOR AN ATTACK.

CYCLOPS? DO YOU READ ME?

THESE VALUES KEEP CHANGING BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT THEY REPRESENT...

SKKKSSSSSS

I'VE ACCESSED SOME MANNER OF ROOT MENU AND RUN A TRANSLATION CYCLE. IN A FEW MOMENTS WE--

OH. I SEE.

00:00:06

IT'S A TIMER?

00:00:05

WE SHOULD PROBABLY RUN.

00:00:04

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TO THE X-CLUB IN X-MEN SECOND COMING REVELATIONS: BLIND SCIENCE!

XUTOPIA.

ARE YOU HURT?

NO.

YOU HANDLED YOURSELF WELL, I--

I SHOULDN'T BE HERE, NATHAN.

WHAT?

COMING HERE WAS A MISTAKE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE READY. YOU SAID YOU *KNEW*.

I WAS SICK OF RUNNING. I WAS TIRED OF FIGHTING...

I WAS TIRED OF EATING RATS.

WHEN I SAID I WAS READY...

...I LIED.

TO BE CONTINUED IN X-MEN: LEGACY #236!

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ZOMBIE